

## Message Text

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15

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-20 HEW-02 L-02 /049 W

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R 180829Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1258

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 3493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, SA

SUBJECT: BANNING OF CONTRACEPTIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF STATE 111853

1. CONTRACEPTIVES HAVE BEEN BANNED IN SAUDI ARABIA PURSUANT TO A DECREE DATED APRIL 28. IN THIS DECREE REFERENCE WAS MADE TO A WORLD MUSLIM LEAGUE OPINION ON THE SUBJECT OF CONTRACEPTIVES. HOWEVER, THIS WAS A PUBLIC JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DECISION, NOT THE REASON FOR IT WHICH IS DEMOGRAPHIC.

2. SAUDI ARABIA HAD ITS FIRST MODERN AND ACCURATE CENSUS LAST FALL. THE FINAL RESULTS (WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC) SHOW A TOTAL POPULATION IN THE KINGDOM OF ABOUT 5.6 MILLION PERSONS. OF THIS NUMBER AT LEAST A MILLION, PERHAPS A MILLION AND A HALF, ARE FOREIGNERS. (AMONGST THE FOREIGNERS, YEMENIS PREDOMINATE BUT THERE ARE ALSO LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER ARAB, AFRICA AND ASIAN COUNTRIES)

3. THE RESULTS OF THIS CENSUS WERE A DISAPPOINTMENT BUT NOT A GREAT SURPRISE TO SAUDI ECONOMIC PLANNERS AND ANALYSTS. THEY WERE, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY BOTH A SURPRISE AND A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LEADERS WHO SEEM TO HAVE BELIEVED THAT THE NUMBER OF SAUDIS IN THE POPULATION MIGHT RANGE UPWARD FROM 6 MILLION--A FIGURE WHICH WOULD MAKE MORE REALISTIC THEIR AMBITIOUS HOPES FOR SAUDI

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ARABIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

4. THE DECREE BANNING CONTRACEPTIVES, WITH ITS CLEAR BUT UNSTATED GOAL OF BOOSTING POPULATION, HAS SINCE BEEN JOINED BY A COMPANION DECREE WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE PAYMENT OF GENEROUS FAMILY ALLOWANCES FOR EACH CHILD BORN TO SAUDI PARENTS.

5. THE EFFECT ON SAUDI POPULATION, HOWEVER, IS NOT LIKELY TO BE GREAT. ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTERS SAID HE DOUBTED IF COUNTRY-WIDE SALES OF PILL-TYPE CONTRACEPTIVES EXCEEDED TWENTY THOUSAND PACKAGES (OF CA. 30 PILLS EACH) PER MONTH.

6. WE WILL POUCH THE TEXTS OF BOTH DECREES TO NEA/ARP.  
AKINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIRTH CONTROL, POPULATION DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** woolflhd  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** woolflhd  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BANNING OF CONTRACEPTIVES IN SAUDI ARABIA  
**TAGS:** SPOP, SA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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